

Legislative Update

February 7, 2003



**Washington State
Commission on African American
Affairs**

"A Good Commission, Getting Better!"

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You can:

1. Call your legislators toll-free at the Washington State Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000.

2. Write to your legislators c/o: Washington State Legislature, Olympia, WA 98504

3. E-mail your legislators. To find your legislators' contact e-mail, go to www.leg.wa.gov, and then click "House of Representatives" or "Senators."

To contact the commission you can e-mail us at yourcaa@caa.wa.gov or telephone (360) 753-0127.

Mailing address: PO Box 40926
Olympia WA 98504.

By Tony Orange, Executive Director

I hope this update will be a way for us to communicate with our community leaders, action agencies, and other local organizations that work together to enhance the way of life for African Americans across Washington State.

Update

African American Legislative Day

The Commission on African American Affairs will be leading an effort to convene African American Legislative Day on February 20th, 2003 in the DSHS Auditorium. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet with your legislators, please plan to attend. Below are the status of our priority bills.

Priority Areas

Criminal Justice

HB1031- Currently in the House Judiciary Cmte

SB5060- Currently in the Senate Judiciary Cmte

Economic Development

HB1032- Passed out of Trade and Econ. Dev Cmte, Currently in Appropriations Cmte

Education

HB1176- Currently in House Education Cmte

HB1079- Currently in House Higher Ed Cmte

SB5072- Currently in Senate Education Cmte

Health Care

SB5060- Currently in Senate Health and Long Term Care Cmte

Prescription Drug Bill (HB 1214)

The House of Representatives will be debating a Prescription Drug Bill today. House Bill 1214 (HB 1214) creates a prescription drug board to design and approve policies and programs related to the development of a preferred list and the purchase of prescription drugs.

HB 1214 also directs the Department of Social and Health Services to provide a Medicaid prescription drug benefit for Senior Citizens.